



Afternoon Alert - Friday, December 1, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports that the Imperial Household Council met this morning and concluded that the date for the Emperor's abdication will be April 30, 2019, and that the Crown Prince will accede to the throne on May 1. The networks said April 30 was selected instead of March 31 apparently in light of the government's view that the abdication should be held in a "quiet environment" given that there will be nationwide local elections and Diet deliberations on the budget for the new fiscal year in the spring of 2019. According to the network, the GOJ will formally decide on the day of the abdication as early as Dec. 8.

## AMBASSADOR

### Ambassador Hagerty visits Iwakuni

NHK Yamaguchi and TYS TV Yamaguchi reported on Thursday that Ambassador Hagerty visited the City of Iwakuni earlier in the day for the first time since he took office and inspected Kizuna Stadium, which the GOJ built at the cost of 6 billion yen as a promotion measure in exchange for the relocation of carrier-borne aircraft from Atsugi to Iwakuni. The networks said the sports facility can be used by U.S. military personnel and local residents. NHK said Iwakuni Mayor Fukuda showed the Ambassador photos of joint patrols conducted by the city and the U.S. base and stressed the importance of creating communities where the peace and safety of local residents are ensured. TYS TV Yamaguchi showed the Ambassador and the mayor playing catch in the outfield in the stadium. The networks also reported that the Ambassador and Mayor Fukuda planted near the stadium entrance a dogwood tree that was presented by the U.S. NHK showed video of

the Ambassador saying: "This stadium is a testament to our friendship and to our bonds, kizuna....I also have the greatest respect for the people of Iwakuni who are our great friends and ally." Mayor Fukuda was quoted as saying: "It is important to deepen our friendship while dispelling citizens' concerns about the base." Sankei carried a similar story in the Yamaguchi section of its website.

## INTERNATIONAL

- [S. Korea's foreign minister plans to visit Japan this month: report](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan facing difficulty with U.S. call for additional steps against DPRK due to Constitution](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe says gov't enlisting U.S. cooperation in rescue of abductees](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: N. Korea's latest dangerous act increases tension with U.S. / Strengthen intl pressure to induce talks](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: More diplomatic efforts needed to contain N. Korean crisis](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Numerous boats floating in Sea of Japan raise tensions for coast guard, residents](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japan names new ambassadors to Sierra Leone and Bahamas](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

- [Nippon Paint gives up talks to acquire Axalta Coating](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Teijin to build carbon fiber plant in U.S.](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Nippon Soda to buy agrochemical division of former Pfizer's Japanese arm](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kobe Steel data cheating to delay restart of 4 reactors for 2 months](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toyota to build fuel-cell plant in U.S.](#) (Kyodo News)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 30, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, Nov. 30](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Regular Diet session to convene Jan. 19 or 22](#) (Mainichi)

- [LDP has largest income of political parties for fourth consecutive year](#) (Mainichi, Yomiuri)
- [Edano, Ozawa meeting offers clues to opposition realignment](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Winning referendum on constitution revision said difficult](#) (Jiji Press)
- [LDP's tax panel eyes launch of forest environment tax in Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Diet responses raise more questions over Moritomo deal](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

### Japan's fight for comeback as "robot" nation

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on robots and robotics, which are becoming a hot topic with the dramatic advancement of AI. The program said Japan, which was overwhelmed by U.S. firms in IT and ceded the leading role in manufacturing to Asian countries, is now hoping that robots will be a way to revitalize the Japanese economy. The program reported that two major Japanese companies, Sony and Softbank, announced new types of robots this month.

### MEXT panel suggests Japan participate in U.S. plan to build new space station

TV Asahi reported at noon that a MEXT panel drafted a report suggesting that Japan participate in the U.S. plan to put a new space station in orbit around the moon. The network said the U.S. has announced that it will conduct investigations of the surface of the moon, adding that if Japan participates in the project, it would increase the likelihood that a Japanese astronaut would land on the moon for the first time. The network said the report will be submitted for discussion at the space policy committee under the Cabinet Office.

- [Japan may join space station project aimed at manned moon landings](#) (Kyodo News)

## SOCIETY

- ['My boss doesn't know my ambitions,' say Japan's working women](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese court rules provision allowing only men to file lawsuits denying legal fatherhood is constitutional](#) (The Japan Times)

## SECURITY

### Former U.S. base worker gets life in prison

NHK reported this afternoon that the Naha District Court handed down a sentence of life imprisonment in the trial of a former U.S. base worker for the rape and murder of a 20-year-old woman in Uruma, Okinawa, in April last year. The network said the defendant admitted to assaulting the woman for the purpose of raping her, but denied intent to kill her.

- [Ex-U.S. base worker gets life in prison for murder of Okinawa woman](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Defense budget to mark record high 5.2 trillion yen](#) (Sankei)
- [MIC falling behind MEXT in fight against information leaks, cyberattacks](#) (Shukan Ekonomisuto)
- [Opinion: DPRK steadily testing missiles to put U.S. mainland within range](#) (Yomiuri)

<b>OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS</b>
--------------------------------

### **Governor hints at revocation of permission to use Oku port for Henoko construction**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that concerning local residents' opposition to using Oku Port in Kunigami Village by vessels transporting materials for the FRF construction at Henoko, Governor Onaga told reporters in Tokyo on Thursday that he will deal with the issue with firm determination, including revocation of the permit, if the public welfare of the community is infringed on by noise pollution or traffic restrictions. Okinawa Times speculated that the governor indicated the possibility of revoking the permit in response to the unexpectedly strong protest filed by the local residents.

- [Okinawa ranks second in the number of high schoolers studying abroad](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)